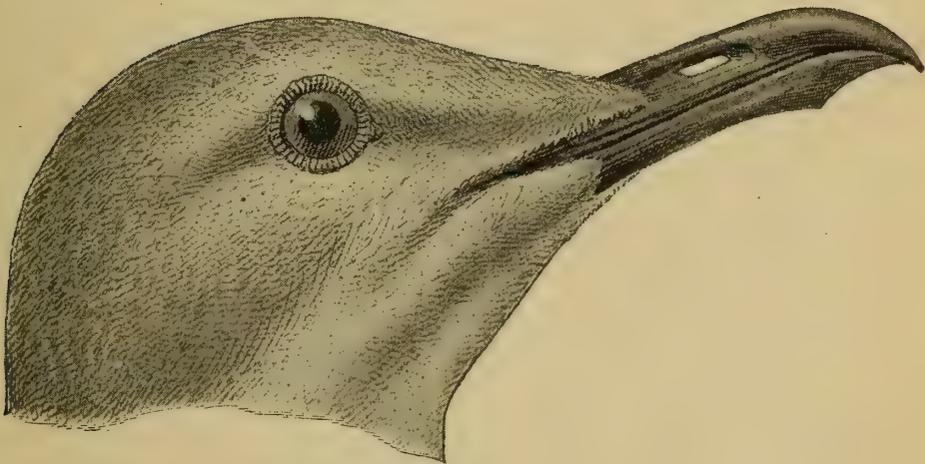


middle of the lower abdomen whitish ; under tail-coverts white, a little buffish, with two blackish-brown transverse bands, sometimes not wholly regular but always very well marked ; primary-quills quite black, with paler inner webs and whitish tips to most of them ; secondaries dark umber, tipped with buffish grey ; central tail-feathers marbled or barred with blackish on a whitish ground-colour at the base, then dull dark brown, and finally tipped with dirty white ; outermost tail-feather white, the following outside and the two middle feathers white barred with dark brown at the base, dark brown towards the tip, finally tipped with dirty white ; under wing-coverts and axillaries smoky brown, the latter indistinctly marbled with dull grey ; feet greyish brown.

Bill from the forehead 1·9 inch ; wing 15·5 inches.

Fig. 13.



Head of *Larus audouini*.

Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouini*), young male in its first dress, but able to fly.—Island of Vacca (S.W. Sardinia), July 12, 1901. P. Bonomi [C.].

Bill blackish, overspread with reddish at the base and near the apex of the culmen, horn-coloured at the end ; iris very dark hazel ; the colour of the head and neck of a light whitish grey, with the edges of the feathers suffused

with buff; the back with a brownish appearance, but the end of the feathers buffish; the wings and lower back like those of the Yellow-legged Herring-Gull, but the edges broader, and the buffish tint lighter and not overspread with grey, but with whitish yellow; chin and throat buffish white; under-parts greyish, with the feathers edged with buffish, the grey tint overspread with brownish, more distinct on the sides of the breast and of the upper abdomen; lower abdomen, vent, under tail-coverts, and the sides snow-white, some of the lateral under tail-coverts shewing a dark greyish spot towards the end of the feathers on the outer web; tail-feathers blackish, with a broad terminal band and an edge of light buffish white, the base of a delicate pearly white, the light pattern more extended on the inner webs of the outside feathers; feet dark dirty plumbeous.

Bill from forehead 1·67 inch; wing 13·5 inches.

A young male of the same age, date, and locality has the greyish on the head and upper-parts darker, and also the dark tint on the under-parts, so that the contrast with the snow-white of the belly is more evident.

Bill from forehead 1·6 inch; wing 12·4 inches.

Two other females from the same locality and with the same date are younger and not fully grown; they resemble the above-mentioned young males, but there are some grey downy tracts on the neck and on the sides of the head.

Bill from forehead 1·6 inch; wing 10·7 inches.

Besides the small size and the dimensions of the bill and wing, the differently coloured bill, the darker and more uniform pattern of the plumage, the snow-white abdomen and vent, we must call attention to the very different pattern of the tail-feathers and the shape of the bill, which enable us to recognise this species at once in its first dress after the downy nestling-period.

Yellow-legged Herring-Gull, young, in the first dress.

Bill stouter and larger, with the rami of the lower mandible straight or a little arched, the space from the gonys to the

end of the bill a little arched, the base of the culmen on the upper side a little convex; the angle of the gonys rather distinct; the nostrils elongated, somewhat oval, and broad (see fig. 12, p. 494).

Tail-feathers white at the base, with some blackish transverse bars (except the outermost one and sometimes that which follows); outermost tail-feather white at the end, the basal three-fourths of the second and third outside feathers and half the others white, all banded with blackish; these bands sometimes not regular and always scanty in the second and third, more abundant in the following and in the central, all having a subterminal blackish band and with dirty white tips.

Audouin's Gull, young, in the first dress.

Bill thinner and more elongated in proportion, with the rami of the lower mandible decidedly arched, the space between the gonys and the end of the bill longer and much more arched, the base of the culmen on the upper side more flat; the angle of the gonys clearly distinct; the nostrils straight, linear, and narrower (see fig. 13, p. 495).

Tail-feathers pearly grey-white at the base, without any blackish transverse band, the light pattern more extended on the inner webs of the feathers. They are pearly grey-white for about one-fourth of their length, the light pattern increasing in extent for three-fourths of the total length on the inner webs of all of them except the two central (which are black, except at the base); in the rest they are blackish, tipped with dirty white, and with the outermost one edged with white.

In concluding this note I give a list of the specimens in my Collection:—

a. ♂ ad. Island of Elba, August 26, 1883.—*Ex Coll. Roster.*

Bill from forehead* 1·9 inch, coral-red, with a subapical blackish band; wing 16·6 inches.

* I always measure the bill from the feathered space down the forehead to the tip, and I observe that this space is very much prolonged on the base of the bill, so that it appears shorter than it is.

b. ♀ ad. Malfatano, Gulf of Palmas (S. Sardinia), May 5, 1899.—P. Bonomi [C.].

Bill 1·67 inch, coral-red, overspread here and there with blackish, and with two subapical black bands; wing 16 inches.

c. ♂ ad. Island of Elba, December 22, 1900.—Prof. Damiani [P.]*.

"Iris brown; bill 2 inches, coral-red, with a broad blackish subterminal band and a small shade at the base of the culmen; wing 16 inches.

"The first winter-killed specimen at the Island of Elba."

d, e. ♂ and ♀ ad. Teulada (S. Sardinia).—P. Bonomi [C.].

Bill 1·8 inch; wing 16·5 inches.

f, g. ♂ and ♀ ad. Island of Mal di Ventre (W. Sardinia), March 1901.—E. Arrigoni Degli Oddi [C.].

The male has only one large subapical band, the head, the lores, and sides are spotted with greyish as much as in the winter dress of the Common Gull. I think that this is an immature specimen, and not an adult in winter dress. It is also like that described by Mr. Saunders in lacking the white spot on the outermost primary. This remarkable specimen measures: bill 2 inches, wing 16·3 inches.

The female is a white-headed bird, with only one subterminal band on the bill, which measures 1·7 inch; wing 15·7 inches.

h-l. Three ♂ ad. and two ♀ ad. Cala Galera (Gulf of Palmas), July 11, 1901, and Island of Vacca (S.W. Sardinia), July 12, 1901.—P. Bonomi [C.].

All with two black subterminal bands on the bill, which measures 1·8 to 2 inches; wing 16 to 16·8 inches.

m-p. Two ♂ young and two ♀ young. Island of Vacca, July 12, 1901.—P. Bonomi [C.].

Those which are described above.

All of the specimens (except the male from the Island of Mal di Ventre and the four young birds) are wholly white-headed, with the outermost primary shewing a small white subapical spot on the inner web. I think that the greyish-brown streaks on the head and neck are a true mark of immaturity, and not a peculiar winter dress, which I believe to be like the full breeding-plumage. I have mentioned that some specimens shew only one dark subterminal band on the bill, and others two. I think that, generally speaking, in the adult bird the two are combined together, and so

* For the gift of this beautiful specimen I am particularly indebted to my friend Prof. Damiani, of Portoferraio.

become a single broader band, while it appears to me that the total breadth of the two and the red space between them corresponds to the size of the single band in the adult. I believe, moreover, that this is the last-assumed mark of full development, and that it is generally found after the streaked appearance on the neck and head is lost; there are, however, exceptions to this rule (*cf.* the male specimen from Mal di Ventre in my Collection). According to what I could observe, and with the material that I had at my disposal, I certainly consider that the two bands and the black blendings scattered here and there over the bill are marks of immaturity.

XXIX.—*Proceedings at the Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1902.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union was held in the rooms of the Zoological Society of London, 3 Hanover Square (by permission of the Council of that Society), on Wednesday, the 14th of May, at 6 P.M. In the regretted absence of the President, owing to illness, Dr. P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S., took the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting having been read and confirmed, the Report of the Committee was read. They were glad to be able to state that the prosperity of the Union had continued undiminished during the past year.

The annual volume of 'The Ibis' for 1901 had been published in regular course. It was the first of the Eighth Series, under the joint Editorship of Dr. P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., and Mr. A. H. Evans, M.A., and consisted of 782 pages, illustrated by 15 plates.

The Committee regretted to report the loss by death of seven Ordinary Members of the Union since the last Anniversary, namely: the Rt. Hon. Lt.-Col. E. H. Cooper, Mr. H. M. Courage, the Rev. H. A. Macpherson, Lord Malcolm of Poltalloch, Capt. Eric Streatfeild, Mr. Lionel W. Wiglesworth, and Mr. John Young. The resignation of Mr. Arthur H. Holland had been accepted; but it had not been found necessary to remove any Member under Rule 6.

The Union on May 14th consisted of 347 Ordinary Members, 2 Extraordinary Members, 9 Honorary Members, and 17 Foreign Members, making a total of 375. Twenty-eight Candidates for the Ordinary Membership were seeking admission to the Union.

The finances were adequate, although the expenditure on the illustrations had been somewhat heavier than usual.

The Report having been adopted, the Accounts for the year, audited by Mr. H. E. Dresser, were presented by the Secretary and approved by the Meeting.

Dr. F. DuCane Godman, F.R.S., was re-elected President, and Mr. Howard Saunders Secretary for the ensuing year. Dr. F. G. D. Drewitt was elected a Member of the Committee, in the place of Mr. W. E. de Winton, who retired by rotation.

The following alterations in the Rules of the Union were recommended by the Committee:—

Rule 2, par. 1. To insert the words "Colonial Members" after "Extraordinary Members," and for par. 3 to insert "Colonial Members to be eminent Ornithologists residing in the British Colonies and India, and not to exceed ten in number."

Rule 3, last par. To insert the word "Colonial" after the word "Honorary."

The effect of these alterations would be to form a new class of Colonial Members, not to exceed ten in number.

These alterations were discussed and adopted by the Meeting.

The following twenty-eight Candidates were then balloted for and declared to be duly elected Ordinary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union:—Harry Becher, C.E., 4 Walpole Street, Chelsea, S.W.; The Hon. Richard O. B. Bridgeman, Lieut. R.N., H.M.S. 'Partridge,' Cape of Good Hope Station; Bertram A. Bristowe, The Cottage, Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey; Robert M. Cowie, M.R.C.S., 2nd Life Guards, Windsor; Charles Henry Dent, Raincliffe Villa, The Valley, Scarborough; The Rev. Allan Ellison, M.A., Ardoyne House, Watton, Hertford; Capt. Stanley S.

Flower, F.Z.S., Kedah House, Zoological Gardens, Gizeh, Cairo ; William Bevington Gibbins, Ettington, Stratford-on-Avon ; Frederick Gillett, Woodfield, Burgess Hill, Sussex ; Arthur Riley Gillman, 5 Fellows Road, Hampstead, N.W. ; John Randall Hatfield, Edlington Hall, Horncastle, Lincolnshire ; Bron Herbert, Picket Post, Ringwood, Hants ; Geoffrey Secombe Hett, 18 Chepstow Place, Bayswater, W. ; Walter Francis Innes, Bey, M.D., Curator of the Zoological Museum, School of Medicine, Cairo, Egypt ; Frank Harwood Jacob, M.D., 4 Oxford Street, Nottingham ; Norman Humbert Joy, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Bradfield, near Reading ; Norman Boyd Kinnear, 12 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh ; John Bruce Nichols, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. ; Michael John Nicoll, 10 Charles Road, St. Leonard's ; Alfred Edward Pease, M.P., Pinchinthorpe House, Guisborough, Yorks ; Bernard Beryl Riviere, 82 Finchley Road, N.W. ; Arthur St. George Sargeaunt, 83 Madeley Road, Ealing, W. ; William H. Radcliffe Saunders, C.E., 33 Princes Square, W. ; Abel Henry Smith, M.P., Woodhall Park, Hertford ; John Hutton Stenhouse, M.B., R.N., H.M.S. 'Diana,' Mediterranean Squadron ; Reginald Gilliatt Townsend, M.A., Buckholt, Dean, Salisbury ; Edward Walter Wade, 325 Anlaby Road, Hull ; William Hughes Workman, Lismore, Windsor, Belfast.

The name of Prof. Gustav F. Radde, of Tiflis, was ordered to be transferred from the list of Foreign Members to the list of Honorary Members.

The following gentlemen were elected Foreign Members :— Mr. Frank Michler Chapman, American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A. ; Dr. Herman von Ihering, C.M.Z.S., Museu Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil ; and Dr. Peter Suschkin, C.M.Z.S., Imperial University, Moscow, Russia.

After a vote of thanks to the Council of the Zoological Society of London for the use of their Rooms, the Meeting adjourned.

The Annual Dinner, subsequently held at Limmer's Hotel (Dr. P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., in the Chair), was attended by twenty-one Members.

XXX.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 351.]

74. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. No. 41, January 1902, and No. 42, April 1902.]

The first number of this journal contains an interesting article by Mr. Charles Campbell on a large Starling-roost on Cramond Island in the Firth of Forth. Mr. T. G. Gunnis follows with details of the shooting, on Tiree, of the example of *Porzana carolina* which was exhibited by Mr. E. Lort Phillips at the British Ornithologists' Club on November 20th last, being the third recognition in the British Islands of this black-faced American representative of our Spotted Crake. Among the Notes are remarks on migrants in the south of Shetland, on considerable immigrations of Waxwings, on occurrences of the Great Snipe in Shetland as well as in Orkney, and on an exhibition of the first specimen of the Green Sandpiper from the Outer Hebrides. In the number for April, Mr. T. G. Laidlaw gives his usual Annual Report on the Movements and Occurrences of Birds in Scotland for 1901—a most useful epitome; while Mr. Harvie-Brown contributes an introductory article on additions to the ornithological knowledge of the Outer Hebrides acquired since 1888. Among the Notes, Mr. W. Eagle Clarke records further arrivals of Greenland Redpolls; while an example of Tengmalm's Owl was obtained in Shetland on November 5th, 1901, and presented to the Edinburgh Museum. Mr. G. Sim states that a Little Owl (*Athene noctua*), the first for Scotland, was obtained in Kincardineshire on February 1st; the breeding of the Pintail in Selkirkshire is recorded; and Mr. W. Eagle Clarke writes that he has received for identification specimens of *Sterna fluviatilis* from a considerable colony breeding on an inland loch in Shetland, the first authenticated instance for the group.—H. S.

75. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xix. Nos. 1 and 2, January and April 1902.]

Mr. A. C. Bent begins the year with a continuation of his illustrated paper on the nesting-habits of the Anatidæ in Northern Dakota, which is concluded in the April number. Mr. James Haynes Hill contributes a short article on *Loxia leucoptera* in captivity; while the title of Mr. J. W. Daniel's paper on the summer birds of the Great Dismal Swamp will revive recollections of anti-slavery agitation in readers of mature age. Mr. W. H. Kobbe investigates the question of the species or races of Herring-Gulls, and comes to the conclusion that there is no specific distinction between *Larus argentatus* and *L. vegæ* of Palmén, but that *L. cachinnans* is quite recognisable. We are glad to see that he has made good use of the Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. xxv., although he has not arrived at quite the same conclusions as the author of the section Gaviæ. Mr. H. B. Bigelow's list of the birds observed on the north-eastern coast of Labrador is a useful supplement to Mr. L. M. Turner's birds of Ungava. The Report of the Committee on the Protection of North-American Birds is of great interest, especially Mr. Dutcher's portion relating to the Gulls and Terns. We may pass over some American papers which will be duly noted by the recorder of 'Aves' in the 'Zoological Record'; but occurrences of *Mareca penelope* in North Carolina and Long Island, as well as of *Nettion crecca* in the latter, deserve mention on this side of the water.—H. S.

76. Baker on the Birds of North Cachar.

[The Birds of North Cachar. By E. C. Stuart Baker. Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.—Part III. *op. cit.* ix. p. 111 (1894); Part IV. *op. cit.* x. p. 1 (1895); Part V. *op. cit.* x. p. 161 (1896); Part VI. *op. cit.* x. p. 339; Part VII. *op. cit.* x. p. 539 (1897); Part VIII. *op. cit.* xi. p. 291; Part IX. *op. cit.* xi. p. 390; Part X. *op. cit.* xii. p. 486; Part XI. *op. cit.* xiii. p. 399 (1901); Part XII. *op. cit.* xiii. p. 563.]

Mr. Baker has now sent us a complete set of his series of papers on the birds of North Cachar, of which we